



## EVALUATION CRITERIA

*Janice Hollmann Grant*

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Applications are reviewed by a committee comprised of representatives from the Maryland Environmental Trust, and State Highway Administration. All decisions of the review committee are final and will be based on the following primary, secondary and specific project criteria.

Janice Hollmann Grant applications are evaluated each grant cycle on a competitive basis, using the criteria below.

### Primary Evaluation Criteria

- ✓ Land trust is currently in compliance with all legal agreements between MET and the land trust including Cooperative Agreements, conservation easements and grant agreements (previous Hollmann or other).
- ✓ Project is aligned with the land trust's mission, goals, and strategic priorities.
- ✓ Project has well defined metrics, goals, and objectives.
- ✓ Project can be accomplished within the stated grant period.
- ✓ Project has a high likelihood of success.
- ✓ Land trust match is secure, well explained and verifiable.
- ✓ Land trust submitted required information and supporting materials.
- ✓ Land trust completed information required from previous Hollmann Grant recipients (if applicable).

### Secondary Evaluation Criteria

- ✓ Land trust demonstrates a high level of competence, accountability, and due diligence, including satisfactory completion of previously awarded Janice Hollmann Grants and final grant reports.
- ✓ Land trust shows intent to fully implement Standards and Practices within the next 5 years (or is already accredited).
- ✓ Project advances broader community needs, programs, and objectives.
- ✓ Land trust match is greater than minimum required.
- ✓ Land trust has track record of sharing coheld monitoring reports with MET's Stewardship Program (if applicable).

### Project Category Criteria (Addresses specific criteria in indicated Project Category)

1. Strategic Land Conservation
  - Project enables regional conservation partnerships
  - Project compliments land protection strategies in the land trust's service area

and/or supports other regional protection plans or statewide environmental priorities; or

- Project will support facilitate a regional conservation plan that highlights shared strategies, maps protected lands and conservation priorities and outlines collaborative projects to protect signature landscapes.

## 2. Enhanced Land & Easement Stewardship

- Project will increase the land trust's capacity to monitor and manage its portfolio of land that has permanently protected;
- Project provides innovative tools and technology to address the widening "stewardship gap"; or
- Project will support citizen stewardship and opportunities for landowners to engage in stewardship best practices.

## 3. Land Trust Strengthening

- Project will develop practices or programs that build organizational capacity and effectiveness and are likely to be sustained beyond the grant period;
- Project provides new and/or expanded staff capacity, clear description of expected project outcomes and an explanation for how increased capacity will significantly impact the organization, leading to a stronger land trust, multi-land trust cooperatives or the merger of two or more land trusts;
- Project demonstrates a plan to increase professional training or development opportunities to staff or board; or
- Project aids in the implementation of specific Land Trust Standards & Practices and/or compliance with accreditation requirements.

## 4. Connecting People to the Land

- Project enables a partnership, collaborative or community initiative involving other conservation partners, public and/or private that:
  - builds community support for and involvement in land conservation or local open space protection;
  - advances an innovative model for collaboration, outreach, constituency-building, and/or community engagement in Maryland's land trust community; or
- Project will support, educate and engage the next generation of conservation leaders in Maryland.